

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming system, including a printer for forming an image on a recording medium and a scanner for optically reading a document image, where the printer and the scanner are used in a systematic manner in which the printer and the scanner are used in combination as a system, wherein:

the printer and the scanner respectively comprises a display section, in such a manner that at least one of the display sections is so controlled as to have different display formats for a non-systematic manner and for the systematic manner.

2. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein one of the display sections of the printer and the scanner shows information regarding the whole system, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system.

3. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the display section of the scanner is the display section that displays the information regarding the whole system, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system.

4. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the display section that displays the information regarding the whole system when the printer and the scanner are used in combination in a system has a larger display screen than the other display section.

5. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the scanner includes a large-sized display section, which can display drawings, so that detailed information of the printer can be displayed on the large-sized display section of the scanner, when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system.

6. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the printer includes a control section for controlling the large-sized display section of the scanner, the control section having a display information storing section for storing, in advance, display information for display on the large-sized display section, providing for a case where the printer is used in combination with the scanner.

7. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein display information for displaying the

detailed information of the printer on the large-sized display section is installed in the printer when the printer and the scanner are used in combination, where the detailed information can be installed by post-installation.

8. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the printer and the scanner respectively include a user interface section composed of the display section and an operation section therein, the image forming system further comprising:

a detecting section for detecting connection of the printer and the scanner when the printer and the scanner are connected together as the system, or disconnection of the printer and the scanner when the printer and the scanner are disconnected from each other; and

a control section for inactivating one of the user interfaces section of the printer and the scanner when the detection section detects the connection of the printer and the scanner.

9. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the control section inactivates the user interface section of the printer, when the detection

section detects the connection of the printer and the scanner.

10. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 8, the control section inactivates the user interface section of one of the printer and the scanner that is installed above the other, when the detection section detects the connection of the printer and the scanner.

11. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the control section activates a user interface section that has been inactivated until then, when the detection section detects the disconnection of the printer and the scanner.

12. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the detection section has a function for detecting whether or not the scanner and the printer are connected as the system, when power is supplied.

13. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the one of the printer and the scanner whose user interface section is inactivated when the scanner and the printer is used in combination as the system includes a detailed information display section and a

simple information display section, wherein the control section inactivates only the detailed information display section when the user interface section is inactivated.

14. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 1, the display sections of the printer and the scanner seem to be at least partly next to each other with respect to a direction from which the user is expected to view the display sections.

15. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 14, wherein information indicated by a change in a color is displayed on the display section of the printer, when an operation state of the printer is changed.

16. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 15, wherein information of an operation state of the printer indicated by a character, a mark or a design is displayed on a part of the display section of the scanner, when an operation state of the printer is changed.

17. The image forming system as set forth in Claim

16, when the operation state of the printer is changed, changed in a synchronizing manner are (a) the information of the operation state of the printer indicated by the character, the mark or the design, displayed on the display section of the scanner, and (b) the information indicated by the change in the color displayed on the display section of the printer.

18. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the printer and the scanner shares one of the display sections thereof for displaying information regarding the whole system when the printer and the scanner are used in combination as the system,

wherein the one of the printer and the scanner, which includes the display section shared in case of the formation of the system, comprises a first control section, while the other of the printer and the scanner comprises a second control section, where the first control section and the second control section are connected together via a bus line, so that, when the system is controlled by the second control sections, the first control section prepares a display data in accordance with instructions from the second control section, and supplies the display data to the shared display section, in case the system has a predetermined

operation state that requires display of instructions on the display section.

19. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the predetermined operation state is common to when the system is controlled by the first control section and when the system is controlled by the second control section.

20. The image forming system as set forth in Claim 18, wherein there is a preset priority order between a display data prepared by the first control section and a display data prepared by the second control section, so that the first control section selects which of the display data is to be supplied to the shared display section in accordance with the priority order, when the display data of the first control section and that of the second control section are prepared at a same time.